

Seattle Sister Cities Annual Report Year 2004

Highlights

Beer Sheva

Most of our work surrounded the ongoing renovation of Beer Sheva Park in South Seattle. In connection therewith, we conducted an art competition between high school students from Beer Sheva and from Rainier Beach High School that stands next door to the Park. We prepared contest guidelines, a judging panel, publicized the contest, arranged cash prizes for Seattle winners and an expense paid visit to Seattle for the Israeli winner, Victoria Thurgood. Victoria was the guest of honor at the groundbreaking for the renovations taking place at Beer Sheva Park in Seattle. We had Israeli Dancing, a Falafel Stand, and public ceremonies to mark the beginning of construction of the park and also to take note of the tragedy that befell Beer Sheva only days earlier. Present at the well-attended event were civic and Jewish leaders as well as over a hundred neighbors.

We also provided creative, personal and financial assistance to the City of Seattle and the Friends of Beer Sheva Park in the restoration and improvement efforts. Funds were raised towards the overall projects, and a special appeal secured funds for a beautiful conversation area in honor of the memory of two former leaders of our group.

The week of August 30- September 7, 2004 represented what we hope to be a new chapter in the special relationship between the citizens of Seattle and Beer Sheva. The twelve finalists from the High School Art Competition had their fine artwork exhibited in the foyer of our new City Hall. The theme for the art was for each artist to depict their home city. The artwork was professionally digitized and turned into a very charming set of postcards that were sold to the public.

We are now planning to bring a delegation to Beer Sheva in 2007 in celebration of the thirty year anniversary of our sister city relationship and have recently received a formal invitation from Mayor Turner for such a visit.

Bergen

Co-sponsored the Bergen Youth Symphony and Bergen delegation visit to Seattle.

Sponsored the annual Teacher Exchange Program which sent Wendy Forselius of Seattle's Bagley Elementary School to Bergen. The annual high school student exchange

brought Lars Sundberg to Ballard High School, and sent Alexis Chouery of Nathan Hale High School to Bergen

Sponsored the first Annual Edvard Grieg Recital for Young Piano students in Seattle.

Cebu

Participated in Pasa sa Nayon Seafair Event and Cebu Patron Saint Santo Mino Mass at St. James Cathedral.

Most of year concentrated efforts to collect medical supplies, equipments, for shipment to Cebu. In December two containers loads left for Cebu containing all the supplies collected through the year plus City surplus items.

Chongqing

We received several delegations of Chongqing government officials and scheduled meetings with City departments and local businesses. The total number of visitors exceeded 70.

Highlights included the establishment of the Chongqing Trade Office in Seattle; dedication of Ye Yushan's sculpture gift to the Seattle Chinese garden; the visit of students from Chongqing's Nankai School as part of the young exchange with Sealath High School.

Worked with the Seattle Chinese Garden Society jointly strategizing on fundraising for the Garden.

Began planning for Li Yundi, Chongqing's piano prodigy who will be performing in Seattle in April 2005.

Christchurch

Rhythmic Gymnastic Visit to Seattle - Eight rhythmic gymnasts from Christchurch performed in the Yule Cup at Lake Stevens High School. They competed against teams from Japan, Australia, Canada and Russia as well as teams from other US cities.

WAI Visit to Seattle - New Zealand Maori music group "WAI" performed at the Seattle Children's Festival. The group, which combines traditional Maori music with contemporary pop styles, was very well received. The Seattle Christchurch Sister City Association found housing for them for this two week period, transported them and hosted a barbecue for them. They were interviewed on radio stations from Everett to Olympia.

Totem Project - In Christchurch, Seattle Sculptor Jay Haavik carved a beautiful totem in the style of Pacific Northwest Native Americans. Air New Zealand graciously flew the log for the totem to Christchurch free-of-charge. The completed totem was unveiled

April 23 in a ceremony in Seattle Garden, Christchurch's Garden Park which has sections devoted to Christchurch's six sister cities.

Seattle-Christchurch Scholars Exchange - Four high school students from New Zealand, Sophie Peacock, Courtney McGuigan, Toby Crawford and Ea Wegner visited Seattle for 2 weeks in April as part of the Seattle-Christchurch Sister City Association annual Scholars Program. Four Seattle students visited New Zealand in late July/early August as part of this program.

Galway

Supporting activities in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day festivities including hosting the Mayor of Galway.

Supported World Cup Seattle Soccer Tournament with Ireland playing England, the Tournament's first game.

Rose Murphy, winner of the 2004 Addis Emmet Law Fellowship spent July and August in Seattle working on public service law projects.

Hosted and supported several delegations from Ireland including artists, musicians, and poets.

Gdynia

President Glen Lee and Vice President Cindy Okinczyc traveled to Gdynia on two separate occasions to develop several new and on-going programs. The primary objectives of these two trips were to develop a formal relationship with the managers of the Gdynia Film Festival, the premier Polish language film festival in the world. As a result, the Association was able to establish a formal relationship with the Gdynia Film Festival. Beginning in 2005, their organizers will give the "Seattle Award" to the best independent film shown at the Festival. Seattle will feature the "Seattle Award": winning film and its director at the following Seattle Polish Film Festival.

Planning began for several more activities, including a study mission of Seattle-based business and government officials to Gdynia in 2005; an exchange program between the Gdynia Art Institute and a similar institution in Seattle; and a visit of the tall sailing ship Dar Młodzieży to Seattle.

SGSCA obtained a scholarship for Alicja Gluchowska from Gdynia who was able to spend July and August in Seattle as a participant of the Summer Washington Business Week Program.

SGSCA member and artist Louise McDowell crafted a large bronze sculpture for the City of Gdynia. The sculpture depicts native Coho salmon jumping over obstacles in a stream. The sculpture will be shipped to Gdynia in 2005. Gdynia will permanently mount the sculpture in a park and will rename the park to "Park Seattle."

SGSCA continues to support the Gdynia Hospice which provides day care services (physical care, food, recreations, etc.) for terminally ill residents who live at home.

Haiphong

GSVA Board Member traveled to Vietnam and attended the dedication of a clean water system in June 2004 for the Vay Village in Central Vietnam. The clean water system project was managed and fully funded by GSVA. Vay Village is a few miles from the Laotian border and currently 115 Bru Hill Tribe people including 41 children live in the village. Prior to the clean water system installation, contaminated water from a nearby stream was all that was available.

GSVA Board Member also visited the Quang Tri Blind Association School in Dong Na In June and provided to the school a set of 30 Braille books for the 7th graders.

Assisted the University of Washington Business School – MBA Global Business Program with the planning of a March 2005 mission to Vietnam.

The 5th Humanitour Viet Nam, coordinated in partnership with Rotary International and Kids Without Borders, brought together a delegation of 19 who traveled to Haiphong and distributed over \$25,000 of goods and donations to the Hoa Phuong Orphanage in Haiphong, The Go Vap Orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City, the Peace Village (for disabled children victimized by Agent Orange), the Blind School in Dong Ha, and hill tribe villages in the Khe Sanh area.

Hosted several delegations from Vietnam including government officials and educators.

Kaohsiung

Spend early part of the year planning for the visit of Mayor Frank Hsieh and students from San Hsin High School who were coming to participate in the Seafair Torchlight Parade. This is the third delegation from Kaohsiung participating in the Parade. Working with Seafair to foster a sister festival arrangement.

Welcomed a delegation of students, parents, and teachers from Kaohsiung. Scheduled meetings and visited schools.

Planning for a Seattle delegation to participate in the annual Kaohsiung Lantern Festival in February 2005.

Kobe

In Seattle: Kobe Earthquake Remembrance Ceremony, Kobe Bell, 10th Anniversary of the Earthquake - Seattle Center –Over 50 people participated; used the Kobe flame candle & lantern in ceremony; press coverage in Seattle and Kobe.

Seattle's Japanese Community Queen, Ms. Marissa Nakamichi, visited Kobe to participate in the annual Kobe festival parade and other activities. Kobe

Festival/SEAFair exchange - Kobe Festival representative Mr. Hitoshi Shinya participated in the SEAFair Torchlight Parade and other activities.

Hataikko Daiko, a Kobe taiko drumming group of 20 elementary, junior high and senior high school students, traveled from Kobe to thank Seattle for all their support after the Kobe earthquake in January, 1995. The group played four concerts in Seattle, including participating in the SEAFair Torchlight Parade.

7th Annual Kobe Day at the Mariners Event and "Salute to Japan" celebration of 150 years of US-Japan relations, with video messages from Japan Prime Minister Koizumi and U.S. President Bush; 350-person cheering section waved SKSCA rally towels and cheered on Ichiro and Hasegawa; Kentaro and Shinji Yamamoto threw out the ceremonial first pitch caught by Mariner Shigetoshi Hasegawa; taiko drumming groups played, players names were announced in Japanese by Megumi Kanzaki and the national anthem was sung by Fumi Tagata.

5th Annual Kobe Jazz Day at Dimitriou's Jazz Alley - Kobe Jazz Artist Yoshika performed; Tsering Yuthok of the Mayor's Office brought greetings from the Mayor; over 250 guests.

SEAFair exchange: 7 Kobe student ambassadors and 2 teachers visited Seattle. The group met with Mayor Greg Nickels; toured Seattle sites and learned about Boeing and Starbucks; visited Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy High Schools and stayed with local families. 6 Seattle SEAFair Ambassadors visited Kobe for an exchange program that included exchange activities with students at Fukiai High School, Rokko Island High School and Suma High School; the students stayed with host families and learned about the Kobe earthquake, Kobe Port and toured other Kobe sites.

Trade Development Alliance business trade mission spent several days in Kobe. Kobe Trade Information Office Director Takeshi Yamamoto, SKSCA President Karin Zaugg and Seattle Art Museum curator Yukiko Shirahara introduced the delegation to the Kobe Museum and art exchange that will be happening with the Seattle Art Museum in 2007 as part of the 50th sister city anniversary.

Limbe and Mombasa

With the departure of long-time president of the Seattle-Limbe Sister City Association, Irv Hawkins, the officers and membership of the Limbe and Mombasa Associations have come together and co-sponsored several programs.

Collected books for transport to students and families in both cities. Participated in the 2004 African Chamber of Commerce symposia. Attended the US-Africa Sister Cities International Conference in Virginia. Provided support for UW students in international student exchanges in Africa.

Represented Africare as presenter at multiple Global Impact programs of United Way to solicit support for International Service Agencies.

Mazatlan

Don Mills, President, Seattle-Mazatlan Sister City Association was invited by Mazatlan to be a judge at this year's Annual Mazatlan Sand Sculpture Contest. The Contest was a huge success drawing a crowd of 10,000 people.

We invited Antonio Lopez, Mazatlan's artist-finger painter as our guest at the Annual Sister Cities Reception. Mr. Lopez demonstrated his skills at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel and again at the John Stanford International School where he was a big hit with the students and teachers. He also visited an elementary school in White Center and taught 40 students how to finger paint on 4-inch tiles.

We continued our support of the boys' orphanage with computer supplies, Christmas gifts and clothing.

Nantes

Planning began in January for the Bastille Day Festival at the Seattle Center. Plans in motion to secure a Nantes TA to teach French at the University of Washington.

Bunny Schmidley, President of the Association, traveled to Nantes for two weeks to meet the staff at the Nantes Mayor's office as well as members of the Nantes Association to establish ties with various organizations.

We met with a documentary film producer regarding the film "Chasing Lucia," a story about a 103 year old female Jewish doctor who fled Italy before World War II and lived in Nantes and other cities. The producer discussed offering the Association the opportunity to host a premier when the film is completed.

Tad Davis a Board Member, traveled to Nantes to begin planning for the 25th anniversary events in 2005 including bringing a jazz band from Nantes to Bastille Day.

Seattle Prep hosted the Blanche de Castille Lycee of Nantes for two weeks.

Pecs

In April our long planned project came to conclusion. Donation of 14 computers from the Boeing Company was transferred to Sister Cities Middle School in Pecs by the Hungarian Airline MALEV when they picked up one of their leased planes from Boeing.

Two professors from Central Washington University taught a quarter in Pecs and represented Seattle and Washington at the "European Union Day" celebration when Hungary officially joined the EU.

After the Chamber's international study mission to Munich, a group including government officials, business leaders, and sister city members visited Pecs. Business meetings were hosted by their Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor and the President of

Pecs University hosted the delegation, and sampled Hungarian wine grown in the Pecs region.

Three university students from Pecs arrived for a two-week stay in Seattle to learn about Seattle, our region and the US. They were home hosted by different families.

Perugia

Three officials from the City of Perugia visited Seattle and met with the City's technology experts to learn about our system.

Perugia holds an annual Sister City Market, the Association was able to participate with a Seattle booth.

Perugian Chef Andrea Tiberi demonstrated his cooking skills at Festa at the Seattle Center as well as giving three cooking classes and two dinners.

Planning for a Native American totem pole to be placed in a park in Perugia in 2006.

Reykjavik

SRSCA hosted a traditional Icelandic children's festival "Bolludagur" at the Nordic Heritage Museum.

At the invitation of the SRSCA, the Reykjavik Fire Chief, the EMS Manager and the Director of Operations visited Seattle to learn about Medic One. They spent two days with Medic One and Medic II staff. They were extremely appreciative of the information they received.

SRSCA President, Adda Sigurdardottir traveled to Reykjavik to renew relations with the City and was able to meet the Mayor and other City officials.

Through the Icelandic Film Archives and the Icelandic Film Center, we were able to borrow an Icelandic film which will be shown to the public on January 27 at the Nordic Heritage Museum to commemorate 60 years after World War II.

Sihanoukville

Two graduate students from Seattle volunteered to go to Sihanoukville to work on the library project at Sihanoukville High School for 8 months.

Continuing to support building of elementary school in Sihanoukville. The name of the school will be Seattle-Sihanoukville Friendship School.

Working with other organizations, i.e. RoseCharity, USA, to co-sponsor different projects in Sihanoukville.

Surabaya

Co-sponsored along with the Dutch-American Chamber of Commerce, a welcome dinner for Mr. Soko Widodo of Airlangga University.

Co-sponsored along with the Indonesian Student Association, a visit by new Indonesian Consul General in San Francisco for the “Mini Olympics” games and celebration with the local Indonesian community.

Co-sponsor for P.E.R.M.I.A.S. and the Dilts Foundation, a cancer foundation for the treatment of children.

Taejon (Daejeon)

The 110 member delegation including the Daejeon Symphony Orchestra and Daejeon City staff arrived in June for their first US performance at Benaroya Hall. Coordination and planning for this visit took most of the first half of the year. The performance on June 8 was a huge success enjoyed by all. Benaroya Hall was filled to capacity.

Mayor Hong Chul Yum visited Seattle to sign a Letter of Intent between the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology. Mayor Yum met with Mayor Nickels, toured the Boeing plant, and met with staff at the UW Medical School and Hospital.

The President of Chungnam National University in Daejeon visited Seattle to meet with his counterparts with the University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center to establish a relationship to do three-way clinical research.

Tashkent

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Seattle-Tashkent relationship, and of Navruz (the Persian New Year) the STSCA organized a delegation to Tashkent. As guests of Tashkent's Mayor, Mr. Rustam Shoabdurahmanov, the members of the March delegation stayed in the Mayor's official guesthouse and enjoyed generous Uzbek hospitality. The mayor's office organized a rich program which included visits to Tashkent's neighborhoods (mahallas) to join Tashkent's citizens in celebrating the New Year and the beginning of spring. To commemorate the cities' thirty year relationship, STSCA presented two pieces of art by Seattle artists—a framed piece of calligraphy symbolizing peace, with a congratulatory plate attached, and a vessel made by a local potter. STSCA also presented a letter of congratulations to Mayor Shoabdurahmanov from Mayor Nickels, and a proclamation from the Seattle City Council to the City of Tashkent. In addition, STSCA hosted a dinner at the recently remodeled Hotel Uzbekistan for officials in the City of Tashkent Municipality, as well as other officials.

The delegation was diverse, including educators, a calligraphy artist, a potter, a graduate student from the University of Washington Central Asian Studies program and an orphan project director. Issues of focus for the delegation were education, health care, the arts, and women and children's issues. Participants visited orphanage #24, where they presented seven boxes of toys, clothing and books collected by Orphan Care for Central Asia (known as Partnership for Healthy Children in Uzbekistan). They also visited a school for the deaf and three lycees, including lycee #17, with which the STSCA has a long standing relationship. Delegates were guests at a cultural university for students interested in learning theater production and traditional Uzbek music in preparation for national cultural events, and were treated to a concert of traditional instruments and vocal music by students from the institute affiliated with the Music Conservatory. They also visited a sports stadium, a clinic, a hospital, a planetarium, the Writers Union of Uzbekistan, met with the Deputy Mayor in charge of the Department of Economics, and with an Uzbek potter.

A Galen Mohr Memorial Scholarship was allocated for a student in the UW Uzbek program

Representatives from STSCA met with a delegation of four librarians from Uzbekistan and discussed cooperation on a book drive for "American Corners" in Uzbekistan libraries.

The fall quarterly meeting was held October 26 at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture. Our featured speaker was Ambassador John Fox, who is currently the Director of the Office of Caucasus and Central Asian Affairs at the US Department of State. Ambassador Fox spoke about the state of US-Uzbekistan relations. Two STSCA members, each representing one of STSCA's partner organizations flew to Tashkent on the delivery flight of a new Boeing 767-33P(ER), courtesy of Uzbekistan Airways and the Boeing Company. Thanks to the generosity of the national airline and Boeing, the group was able to ship large numbers of scholarly books donated for a new UW research center in Tashkent, as well as cases of clothes, toys, and other items for Tashkent orphanages. A separate STSCA affiliated group visited Tashkent for meetings with representatives of secondary schools about future cooperation and teacher exchanges.